

Rare Breeds on Isle of Man April 16 Issue

On April 16 the Isle of Man also will issue a miniature sheet that showcases the work of the Manx Ark Project and celebrates 100 years of the Southern District Agricultural Society. The sheet presents six paintings of British animals, now considered rare breeds.

The Manx Ark Project protects rare breeds of farm animals for the future and is an initiative that was developed by Isle of Man farm owner Paul Davis in conjunction with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. The Isle of Man is an ideal sanctuary to house some of the very rarest breeds of British farm animals, a measure that serves as a protection against any epidemics in Great Britain or Ireland and for the provision of ongoing research.

Commercial pressures have led to the extinction of many British breeds. Since the 1970s, the Rare Breeds Survival Trust has worked to preserve traditional breeds and keep them from extinction and since that start no breed has been lost.



The stamps in the miniature sheet feature detailed paintings by artist Dr. Jeremy Paul of endangered animals including several living on the Island: Manx Loaghtan sheep, Northern dairy shorthorn cattle, Cotswoold sheep, Exmoor ponies, Gloucestershire old spot pig and Irish moiled cattle.

Paul Davis of the Manx Ark Project said: "The beautiful animals depicted on these stamps underline what we stand to lose if we allow endangered breeds to become extinct. I am thrilled that the Isle of Man Post Office has recognized and commemorated our work with these precious resources."

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You may also see all the 2014 Isle of Man issues to date at <http://www.stampnewsnow.com/IsleOfManNewIssues.html>, our Stamp News Now page for the Isle of Man.